

At-A-Glance

The Public Safety Program provides leadership to prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities among workers in law enforcement, fire service, corrections, and the emergency medical service (EMS). This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Public Safety Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program addresses national priority research topics, focused on these areas:

- Reducing injuries and deaths from motor vehicles among Public Safety workers
- Reducing structural and wildland fire fighter hazardous exposures, injuries and deaths
- Improving health and wellness among Public Safety workers, especially heart health

What do we do?

- Develop new technologies, best practices, and other tools to help Public Safety workers drive more safely on the job.
- Investigate law enforcement officer motor vehicle-related deaths to understand what caused those events and provide agencies with recommendations for how they can be prevented in the future.
- Investigate structural and wildland fire fighter deaths to understand their causes and take steps to prevent future deaths.
- Study Public Safety workers' exposures and risk factors for cancer, infectious disease, heart disease, and respiratory disease. Use research findings to recommend prevention strategies.
- Share information about NIOSH programs, publications, and resources to increase awareness of injuries, illnesses, and deaths among workers in the Public Safety Sector and how to prevent them.

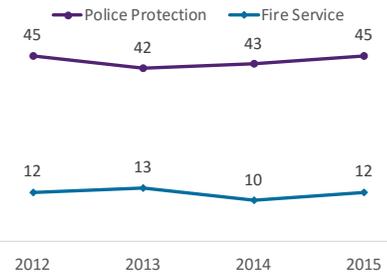
What have we accomplished?

- Partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency to publish *Wildfire Smoke, a Guide for Public Health Officials*.
- Provided the scientific basis underlying proposed federal legislation to create a national fire fighter cancer registry. This legislation referenced a NIOSH study of nearly 30,000 fire fighters.
- Conducted ambulance vehicle safety research which resulted in new EMS and ambulance layout designs published by the Department of Homeland Security in *Ambulance Patient Compartment Human Factors Design Guidebook*.
- Issued seventeen new respirator approvals for self-contained breathing apparatus with integrated safety alarms increasing the protection available for Public Safety workers.
- Posted a NIOSH topic page *Fentanyl: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Emergency Responders*.
- Published *Workplace Solutions Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters during Training Exercises*, summarizing the results of 81 fatality investigations and providing recommendations to prevent fire fighter death and injury during training exercises.
- Promoted the Ambulance Ground Vehicle Standard based on NIOSH's collaboration with the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.
- Published contemporary anthropometry (body size and dimensions) data for EMS workers on the NIOSH website, and encouraged use of these data in ambulance patient compartment (workspace) design.
- Participated in the development of six National Fire Protection Agency fire and emergency services protective clothing and equipment performance standards.

What's next?

- Collaborate with the Police Foundation on a two-year project to implement and evaluate training programs to improve officer safety and wellness at three law enforcement agencies.
- Release videos and an infographic that provide emergency medical services agencies with information to purchase safer ambulances.
- Publish a NIOSH messaging toolkit promoting law enforcement officer road safety.
- Publish and provide recommendations on validation of cleaning procedures for fire fighter personal protective equipment.
- Contribute to three new ambulance consensus standards, and incorporate these into national ambulance safety standards.

Number of Motor Vehicle-Related Fatal Occupational Injuries



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). Fatal injury totals were generated by NIOSH with restricted access to CFOI microdata. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the BLS.

Page views of the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program Web Sites



Source: NIOSH program records

Publication Spotlight



Workplace Solutions: Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters during Training Exercises

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/pubsaf/